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Benedictine Hospital Celebrates Opening of New Pre-Surgical Testing Unit, Plans for Future

Kingston, N.Y. – June 7, 2011 – Benedictine Hospital, a member of HealthAlliance of the Hudson Valley®, completed the first stage of its 2011 Project Plan for Growth with the opening of a new Pre-Surgical Testing Unit (PST). To celebrate this occasion and unveil plans for a new Infusion Therapy Center and Center for Breast Health to be located at Benedictine Hospital, a reception was held on May 10 in the hospital's main lobby with over 100 staff, volunteers and supporters in attendance.

The PST offers patients from both Benedictine and The Kingston Hospital the convenience of having all tests required before surgery completed quickly and at one location. The unit is dedicated to meeting the concerns of our pre-operative patients by incorporating all testing, health history reviews, and physical exams into one visit. This new area provides patients accommodating hours and a helpful staff of registered nurses, physician's assistants, laboratory personnel and technicians.

The new unit offers patients convenient parking and valet service, easy access from the main lobby/entrance, a large, private waiting room and easy transfers to Ancillary Services such as laboratory, radiology, pharmacy and physical therapy.

Construction is now underway for a new Infusion Therapy Center, scheduled to open in the summer of 2011. The center will combine sites that are currently scattered throughout Benedictine and Kingston Hospital. Services offered at the Infusion Center will include chemotherapy, IV therapy, injections, blood product transfusions, and other outpatient therapeutic services. The center will have 12 private and 2 semi-private treatment areas with flat screen TVs, comfortable recliners, free wireless internet access,

and a patient nourishment station to provide patients a therapeutic setting during treatment. A private waiting room will also be available for friends and family members assisting infusion therapy patients.

Each patient's care at the new Infusion Therapy Center will be coordinated by a healthcare team that will include physicians, oncology certified nurses, a registered dietitian, clinical social worker, pharmacist, pastoral care, as well as registered nursing care assistants, and a certified health unit coordinator all working together to provide compassionate, personalized care to meet each patient's individual needs.

The final phase of the plan will be the construction of the new, state-of-the-art Center for Breast Health, which will consolidate breast health services currently offered by the Fern Feldman Anolick Breast Center at Benedictine Hospital and The Greenspan Center for Women's Health at Kingston Hospital. The development of 2,900 sq. ft. of space located in the Thomas A. Dee Cancer Center on the Benedictine Hospital campus will be the home of the new Center, scheduled to open in the fall of 2011.

The center will offer advanced technology, and provide comprehensive breast screening, mammography, ultrasound and breast MRI, as well as diagnostic imaging and interventions. The skilled physicians, nurses, and technicians from both centers will continue to coordinate breast health services in the Hudson Valley.

The Benedictine Health Foundation has been able to provide the funding for the construction of these three projects, because of the generosity of their donors, and have now launched a campaign to purchase new technology currently not offered in the Hudson Valley, Breast Specific Gamma Imaging (BSGI). BSGI is used as a tool in detecting breast cancers smaller than 1 cm. BSGI is also an adjunct screening tool for high risk women and women who cannot have a breast MRI.

About Benedictine Health Foundation

The Benedictine Health Foundation supports the healthcare programs, services, and facilities of Benedictine Hospital, a member of HealthAlliance of the Hudson Valley®. For further information, contact Barbara Klassen, Executive Director, at (845) 334-3186.

About HealthAlliance of the Hudson Valley®

HealthAlliance of the Hudson Valley® is the alignment of Benedictine Hospital (150-bed acute care facility), Kingston Hospital (150-bed acute care facility), Margaretville Hospital (15-bed critical access facility), Mountainside Residential Care Center (82-bed skilled nursing facility) and Woodland Pond at New Paltz (continuing care retirement community). As the parent organization, HealthAlliance provides a unified governance structure, while still allowing each hospital to continue as a separate and distinct corporation. The goal of HealthAlliance is to strengthen the quality of care and bring forward enhanced technology to serve the present and future healthcare needs in the Hudson Valley. HealthAlliance and its affiliate facilities are committed to providing compassionate, patient-centered care and ensuring patient safety, privacy and dignity to all. For further information about HealthAlliance visit our web site at www.HAHV.org.

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